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The death rate of Ponce still decreases, being 41 less in December than in November.

Respectfully,

W. W. KING,
Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

[Inclosure.]

Summary of transactions of Service during the month of December, 1900.

| | |
|--|-----|
| Number of deaths reported during December, 1900 (a)..... | 229 |
| Number of deaths reported during December, 1899 (a)..... | 303 |
| Number of births reported during December, 1900 (a)..... | 85 |
| Number of births reported during December, 1899 (a)..... | 90 |
| Total number of vessels inspected during December, 1900..... | 14 |
| Total number of vessels inspected during December, 1899..... | 27 |
| Total number of bills of health issued during December, 1900..... | 18 |
| Total number of bills of health issued during December, 1899..... | 26 |
| Number of vessels in quarantine during December, 1900..... | 2 |
| Number of passengers inspected during December, 1900 (incoming)..... | 94 |
| Number of passengers inspected during December, 1900 (in transit)..... | 101 |
| Number of crew inspected during December, 1900..... | 603 |
| Number of immigrants inspected during December, 1900..... | 10 |
| Rejections..... | 0 |

Number and causes of deaths in Ponce jurisdiction (city, playa, and surrounding country) during the month of December, 1900.

| | | | |
|--------------------------------------|----|--------------------------|-----|
| Diseases of— | | Gangrene..... | 1 |
| Digestive system..... | 77 | Sarcoma..... | 1 |
| Respiratory system..... | 13 | Poisoning..... | 1 |
| Circulatory system..... | 7 | Old age..... | 3 |
| Nervous system..... | 8 | Bright's disease..... | 1 |
| Malnutrition, anemia, inanition..... | 65 | Arteriosclerosis..... | 1 |
| Malaria..... | 29 | Metritis..... | 2 |
| Tuberculosis..... | 13 | Tumor of the thorax..... | 1 |
| Dysentery (not epidemic)..... | 3 | | |
| Diphtheria..... | 2 | Total..... | 229 |
| Tetanus, traumatic..... | 1 | | |

Report of immigrants inspected at the port of Ponce, P. R., during the month of December, 1900.

Total number of immigrants inspected, 10; number passed, 10.

W. W. KING,
Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

Inspection of immigrants at Ponce during the week ended January 5, 1901.

PONCE, P. R., January 7, 1901.

SIR: Through chief quarantine officer for Porto Rico, I submit herewith report of alien steerage passengers arriving at this port during the week ended January 5, 1901: January 4, French steamship *Salvador*, from Fort de France, St. Pierre, Pointe a Pitre, Basse-Terre, St. Thomas, with 2 immigrants.

Respectfully,

W. W. KING,
Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

a These figures are for the city proper, the playa, and surrounding district of Ponce.